



Office of the Attorney General
State of Texas

DAN MORALES
ATTORNEY GENERAL

November 14, 1996

Mr. John Steiner
Division Chief
City of Austin Legal Department
P.O. Box 1088
Austin, Texas 78767-1088

OR96-2103

Dear Mr. Steiner:


You ask whether certain information is subject to required public disclosure under the Open Records Act, chapter 552 of the Government Code. Your request was assigned ID# 102235.

The City of Austin received a request for several offense reports that you assert are excepted from required public disclosure based on Government Code section 552.108. Section 552.108 of the Government Code excepts from disclosure "[i]nformation held by a law enforcement agency or prosecutor that deals with the detection, investigation, or prosecution of crime," and "[a]n internal record or notation of a law enforcement agency or prosecutor that is maintained for internal use in matters relating to law enforcement or prosecution. Gov't Code § 552.108; see *Holmes v. Morales*, 924 S.W.2d 920 (Tex. 1996). Information normally found on the front page of an offense report is generally considered public. *Houston Chronicle Publishing Co. v. City of Houston*, 531 S.W.2d 177 (Tex. Civ. App.--Houston [14th Dist.] 1975), writ *ref'd n.r.e. per curiam*, 536 S.W.2d 559 (Tex. 1976); Open Records Decision No. 127 (1976). We therefore conclude that except for front page offense report information, section 552.108 of the Government Code excepts the requested records from required public disclosure. On the other hand, you may choose to release all or part of the information that is not otherwise confidential by law. Gov't Code § 552.007.

We are resolving this matter with this informal letter ruling rather than with a published open records decision. This ruling is limited to the particular records at issue

under the facts presented to us in this request and may not be relied upon as a previous determination regarding any other records. If you have questions about this ruling, please contact our office.

Yours very truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kay Guajardo", with a stylized flourish extending from the end.

Kay Guajardo
Assistant Attorney General
Open Records Division

KHG/rho

Ref.: ID# 102235

Enclosures: Submitted documents

cc: Mr. George J. Donnelly
P.O. Box 684162
Austin, Texas 78768
(w/o enclosures)